Pure

ENCOURAGEMENTS

FROM THE

Spirit of the Lord,

As a joyfull

SALUTATION

WITH FULL

Assurance of Victory

Unto the

NOBLE ARMY

Of the

LAMB,

Against whom the Gates of Hell and Death shall never prevail.

Through a Vessel prepared to do his Will, whithersoever he leadeth it.

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY MAY 28, 1913 ENGLISH HISTORICAL FUND

MY dear Friends, Brethren and Sisters, who are the called and chosen of God, out of the world, out of the nature, spirit, vanities and wayes of it, to follow the Lamb in the Regeneration, through the daily cross, the streight gait and narrow way, which leads to life; ye whose hearts breath and pant for the full enjoyment of the glorious liberty, which was with the Father before the world b gan, and are travelling with your faces towards the holy Hill of *Sion*, and cannot be satisfied with all the Treasures and glory of this present evil world, nor in any thing or creature, but only in the pure, eternal, refreshing presence of your God, in which are Rivers of pleasure, and joy for evermore. You who have cried to the Lord in the Land of *Egypt*, to go forth to sacrifice unto him in the wilderness; sensibly feeling, that while the precious Seed of his Covenant lay in death and the grave, it could not praise him; who hath perfectly known, that except the dead rise, all hearing, faith, and preaching to you was in vain, who were still in your sins and weighed down with corruptions, and overcome with divers temptations in that state. But now hath the Lord your God heard your cries and your groanings, and revealed his Arm of salvation, and brought you forth to the Light, and hath said to the prisoner of hope, shew thy self, and hath raised the Begger from the dunghil, and answered the tender cries of his innocent Babe, which could not live, nor be satisfied, without the sincere milk of the eternal Word of life; and ye have grown up from strength to strength, and have great experience of the loving kindness of your God (and of his many deliverances in the times of need, and of his wonders upon the Land of *Egypt*) which you have known to be as a cloud by day, and as a Pillar of Fire by night, and hath led you in a way you knew not, and in paths which you had not gone, and hath made himself known amongst you by his Name *Jehovah*, in which is everlasting strength.

And now, O ye children of the true *Israel* of the God of *Jacob*, Is it your lot again to be driven by *Pharaoh* and his huge Host, to the Borders of the Red Sea? are the Mountains on each side, and the *Egyptians* behind you, pursuing with Horsmen and Chariots, to destroy you from being a people and to root out the remembrance of your Name, and the Name of your God, from under Heaven: Why, this I proclame unto you all in the Name of my God and your

your God, Stand ſtill, ſtand ſtill, and you ſhall ſee his mighty ſalvation; for with a mighty hand and out-ſtretched arm will he deliver his choſen. Wherefore take no thought for your life, but freely give up all into his hand, and caſt all your care upon him, for not one hair of your head ſhall periſh, beyond the permiſſion of your heavenly Father, for ye are of more value unto him than many Birds of the Air, which cannot light on the earth without his Providence; and be not afraid of any amazement, O ye dear travelling children, the Lord of Hoſts is your helper, who is in the midſt of you, and his ſervant *David* a Prince among you: Therefore fear not the Armies of the Aliens, *Gog* nor *Magog*, with *Gomer* and his bands; the eternal God ſhall break and daſh them in pieces like a Potters Veſſel; he ſhall make them hear a noyſe in the midſt of their Camp, and their hearts ſhall tremble, the wind of a ſhaken leaf ſhall chaſe them: for the Lord is on our ſide, and he will plead the Cauſe of his Seed with all fleſh; only obey you his voyce, and he will ſoon ſubdue your enemies, and your peace ſhall be as a River, and your reſt ſhall be glorious. Oh ſink down, ſink down out of all thoughts, contrivings, or premeditations, and feel it, feel it, ye crying, travelling children, who have no helper in the earth, but the Lord your God alone, in whom is your everlaſting ſtrength. O ye Babes of uprightneſs, ye Sons and Daughters of *Sion*, comparable to fine gold, My ſoul is poured forth like water, before my God for you, that ye might be preſerved and give up all to him as freely as he doth require it, in this day of tryal, and hour of temptation, that not an Ox or Sheep may be left behind to hinder you from enjoying the Kingdome, with any pretence whatſoever, remembring that obedience is more than Sacrifice: for the Lord loveth a cheerful giver, whoſe love you will feel to be ſtronger than death, *which the many waters cannot queneh, neither can the floods drown it.* Have not many of you this experience, as ye have faithfully followed the Lamb through your greateſt Tribulations? and have ye not felt a waſhing your Robes white in his precious blood (the Life?) and have ye not learned a new Song, which he hath put in your mouths, after manifold Deliverances and Victories, which he hath wrought for you, even in the ſight of the Heathen?

Wherefore I ſay unto you, Lift up, lift up your Heads, ye Valiants of *Iſrael*, the Lord of Hoſts is with us, whoſe Arm is not ſhort-

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392 ned; the Lamb is upon Mount *Sion*, with his hundred, forty and four thousands, gathering his numberless number from the four winds. Cast off all mortal thoughts, and the cares of this world, let not the Earth weigh you down, stand, stand upon the Watch-Tower, put on the whole Armour of God, give no place to the Devil, quench all the fiery darts of the wicked within; then will ye not fear what man, or the sons of men, can do unto you: The God of *Jacob* is your Refuge, who will break the bow of the ungodly, and snap their Spears asunder, and burn their Chariots in the fire, and make desolations in the earth; he is fulfilling his promises of old, made to his Chosen, who will give Nations for them, and and people for their life. I say, ye Worthies of the Lord, stand faithful, and be valiant for the truth upon the earth; for its against it they are fighting (within and without) that it might fall in the Streets, and be extinguished from the earth, and that equity and righteousness may not enter the Nations, who have said in their hearts, *Come, let us kill the Heir, and the Inheritance will be ours*: But in vain do the Heathen rage, and the people imagine such foolish things; for their hope shall perish, and their purposes be made void, they shall never bring to pass the thoughts of their hearts; the Lord hath spoken it, *for the Seed of evil doers shall never be renowned*. Wherefore, if ye hear of Wars, or Rumors, or Commotions, or Pestilences, or Famines, or the rushing of the ungodly, like the noyse of the raging Sea, which cannot rest, let not your heart be troubled, the Lord of Heaven and Earth (who is above all) will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, for your Redemption draweth nigh when ye see these things come to pass. And this is the word of the Eternal God unto all people upon the earth, the Redemption of his Seed draweth nigh, and haſteth to be delivered, as a woman in travel. Therefore ye Babes of God, ye Souldiers of the Lamb, put on Zeal as a Garment, and Righteousness as a Breſt-plate, and be cloathed with Humility, and dwell in the Dread and Majesty of the Almighty, and let your hearts be fixed without wavering, look not back, remember *Lots* wife; for these are the days of vengeance, of tribulations, and distress of Nations, with great perplexity, mens hearts failing them for fear, looking at the things that are coming upon the earth: Now shall they see the Son of man coming in the Clouds of Heaven with power and great glory; now shall the earthly

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earthly Tribes mourn and wail becau of him whom they have pierced: But rejoyce, yea, ſing and rejoyce, ye children of the Bride Chamber, who are redeemed from the earth (and yet watch and pray continually) for the Lord will make your terrour (which is already begun) to fall upon all fleſh, as the faithfull to him abide, and the fear of you, and the dread of you (O ye retired, meek, circumſpect Babes) ſhall be upon every Beaſt of the field; *and men in honour, not underſtanding* (the Decree and Counſel of our God) *are like the Beaſts that periſh*; and periſhing and withering ſhall be upon every hand that is ſtretched forth againſt his way and work in the earth; though they ariſe as the Locuſts to compaſs the breadth thereof, the Lord of Heaven ſhall blaſt them, and they ſhall become as dung upon the open field.

Wherefore be ye not at all diſcouraged, neither be afraid of their faces, but gird on ſtrength, and go on in the Name of the Lord. Is the *Philiſtines* Champion come forth to defie the Armies of the living God? doth he preſent himſelf fourty dayes vaunting againſt his true *Iſrael*? doth he threaten to give your fleſh to the Fowls of the Air, and to the Beaſts of the field, to ſell you for bond-men and bond-women? doth the hearts of any among your Tribes begin to faint at the hearing of his voyce? doth the height of his ſtature make you afraid? why, let no mans heart fail becauſe of him; for behold, I ſee little *David* (your Prince) with the ſling in his hand, and the ſmooth ſtone in the Shepherds bag, in the midſt of you, running to meet him in the name and power of the Lord God of the Armies of *Iſrael*, whom he hath defied, who will ſmite the uncircumciſed in heart and ears, by the dread of his preſence, which ſhall ariſe in the hearts of his Choſen, in the day of Battel; for he hath already delivered from the mouth of the Lion, and from the paw of the Bear, and he will alſo deliver us from this uncircumciſed *Philiſtine*, who ſhall be made like one of them. Therefore fear not, ye ſons of *Jacob*, but be very courragious, be not at all diſmayed at his high looks, nor daunted at his chaleng, but let us go on in the Name of the Lord our God, let us keep open *Daniels* Caſement towards *Jeruſalem*, as at other times, let us not regard any thing or Decree, contrary to the Worſhip of our God. Come ye Babes, lift up your heads in the pure ſtrength of the Moſt High, for I feel *Moſes*, *Joſhua*, *Daniel* and *David* amongſt you, and the ſpirits of all juſt men

men from *Abel* to this day are ſtirring up to help you (bleſſed is the eye, that perfectly ſeeth theſe things) yea, the Lord of Hoſts himſelf ſhall fight for you, and give you the victory, for the Battel is the Lords, its againſt Him and his Truth (which muſt ſpread over all the earth, as the waters cover the Sea) that the Potſherds have ſet themſelvs, who can daſh and conſume them in a moment, and will, when their work is done, and their time expired: wherefore I ſay again, in the Name and dreadful Authority of my God, fear them not, the Day is yours, I ſee them all ſcattered as duſt before the wind, that riſe up againſt you, who have no helper in the earth, but from the Lord alone; ye called, choſen and faithful Ones, ye dear Lambs of my Father, gird on ſtrength and valour; my ſoul rejoyceth in God, and my ſpirit doth magnifie him who is the Saviour of *Iſrael*, and my heart doth leap for joy, to ſee and feel your faithfulneſs unto death, and what this day will bring forth to his eternal glory, and renown of his Name, and the everlaſting comfort of you his people. The Lord will determine the Controverſie, and make a ſhort work in the earth. Now ſhall ye be as a City ſet on a Hill, that ſhall ſhine throughout the world: now ſhall the Arm of the Lord your God be revealed to the ends of the earth, in behalf of his precious Seed, which hath long ſuffered in hard bondage and ſore captivity.

And now many are the eyes that are fixed upon you, to ſee what will become of you in this day of tryal, who will have cauſe to glorifie and bleſs the Name of your God, through your faithfulneſs, courage, and boldneſs in the Truth, whereby many ſhall be drawn towards you, who will take hold of your skirts, and acknowledge that the Lord of Heaven is with you; and a multitude ſhall be converted to him, and the deſert ſhall be glad for him, and the wilderneſs ſhall rejoyce becauſe of him, who is come to reign in Mount *Sion*, before his Ancients gloriouſly. Wherefore, ye dear Children, let this be your care and diligence to walk circumſpectly towards them that are yet without, by keeping clear, walking with God in the pure ſtill, retired life, in the inward parts, in which ye may ſee and judg every motion, and feel power to ſubdue and reign over all that is contrary.

So dear Babes of God, dwell very ſtill, cool, and calm in your minds, that ye may be preſerved out of the forward, haſty ſpirit,

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(which hath alwayes betrayed the innocent) and be kept back to the everlasting Foundation and Rock of the Generation of the righteous, whose dwelling place and refuge is the Name of the Lord in all Ages, who hid them in the hollow of his hand, and under the shadow of his wings, in the day of storms and raging Tempests of the wicked. So cast all your care upon him, for he careth for you, and his eye beholds you, which seeth in Secret, who is bringing his Seed through the fire and through the water, that all his people might be as fine Gold seven times tryed. And as for the wicked, your enemies and oppressors, look not at all at them or their power, their strength is a Reed of *Egypt*, their time and power is limited, but still look to the Lord, in whom is your help, in whose Name, and pure Dominion, and everlasting Authority, I give forth this Testimony unto you his people and children, that the day is at hand which shall burn as an Oven, and all the proud, and all that do wickedly shall be as stubble, and the day that cometh shall burn them up, and shall leave them neither *Root* nor *Branch*, yea, the very *Root* of the wicked, as well as the Branch, will the Lord our God consume and destroy by the brightness of his arising. O happy day, blessed for ever, sing and rejoyce ye holy Prophets and Saints of the Most High, for the day of our Redemption approacheth, when all our burdens, oppressions, labour and travails shall cease; leap for joy, ye Babes in the womb of the Morning of this blessed day, at the sound of this Salvation; for its from your Father, the everlasting God, that liveth for ever, who hath said it, and will accomplish it, yea, the zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this. O ye dear Children, I say again, lift up your heads, watch, and be sober, Behold, the Bridegroom cometh be ready ye wise Virgins with your Lamps alway trim'd, and your Vessels full of oyl, that ye may behold his glorious arisings, and see his wonders in the deep: For verily the day of our God is come as a Thief in the night upon all the world of ungodly, who will not believe if one should rise from the dead, and declare it unto them, whose eyes the god of the world hath blinded, that they cannot perceive the Signs of the times, of which many are past already, and the last Sign is approaching, *viz. And the Gospel of the Kingdome shall be preached for a witness unto all Nations and then shall the End come.* And this am I to proclaim unto you his people, and to

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the *World* let it be a *Warning*. And this is the Lord bringing to pass in a way unknown to the ungodly, and unexpected to the wicked, who are (and will be) doing wickedly, till it overtakes them as a flood; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand, and the righteous shall be glad and rejoyce in the God of their salvation.

So these things arose in my heart by the Spirit of the Lord, to give forth unto you his chosen, that it might be as an instrument of encouragement to your precious Faith and Patience, against all opposition within and without, in this day of tryal and hour of temptation; for my soul is greatly refresht as with new wine, in the sence of what our God is hastning to bring forth, and of the portion of my cup I have freely let forth unto you his children, dearly saluting you with tender Bowels and pure Breathings and Desires, unto my God for you all, that we might all be kept staid, chast, single, innocent and valiant, in the strength of the enjoyment of his love, to serve and honour him in this our day and generation, even while we have a Being; to whom my soul ascribeth all glory and thanks, in the living sence of his unspeakable mercies. *Amen. The God of Love and Peace be with your spirit. Amen.*

From my Prison at *Hartford* the 20. of the 4. Month, 64.

I am your Brother and Companion in the Tribulations, Kingdome and Patience of the Lamb.

W. B.

THE END.